

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN



Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and
Environment
1101 W. Peabody, Suite 350
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Champaign, IL 61801

July 21, 2014

Illinois Climate Action Plan Working Group (iWG)

Ben McCall, Associate Director for Campus Sustainability, representing *i*SEE and serving as iWG Chair

Morgan Johnston, Associate Director for Sustainability, representing Facilities & Services

Lowa Mwilambwe, Director of Illini Union, representing Student Affairs

Matthew Tomaszewski, Associate Provost for Capital Planning, representing the Office of the Provost

Nancy O'Brien, Chair of Senate Committee on Campus Operations, representing the Academic Senate

Nishant Makhijani, undergraduate, representing the Student Sustainability Leadership Council

Kevin Duff, Assistant Director of Planning and Design, representing the Office of Business and Financial Services

Rob Fritz, Beckman Institute Director of Facilities, representing the community of college-level facility managers

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you so much for agreeing to serve as a representative on the Illinois Climate Action Plan, or iCAP, Working Group. This important group is being commissioned as part of a new procedure the Chancellor approved last month (attached) to provide a framework for developing and evaluating new sustainability policies and initiatives for our campus. Your group serves two essential roles in this procedure.

First, you are to consider recommendations made by the topical Sustainability Working Advisory Teams (SWATeams). Small-scale recommendations will be evaluated by your chair, who will report to you about them at your regular meetings. Recommendations with moderate-to-large impacts on budget and/or policy should be considered by your full group. If you feel that more detailed study is needed for a particular item, you are to transmit a request for such study to the appropriate units and re-consider that item once the study is complete. You should formally transmit recommendations with moderate budget/policy impact directly to the impacted units. You should transmit recommendations with large budget/policy impacts to the Sustainability Council, which is chaired by the Chancellor. Your group will then coordinate the implementation of the Sustainability Council's decisions. Since this is a new procedure for our campus, I ask that your group develop appropriate processes and protocols for the generation, evaluation, and implementation of SWATeam recommendations.

Second, your group is responsible for initiating a process to revise the iCAP. The individual SWATeams are expected to evaluate the sections of the 2010 iCAP relevant to their topics, and send you draft revisions by October. *i*SEE will hold public input sessions on these drafts, and your group should then synthesize the SWATeam recommendations and the public input into a complete draft of the 2015 iCAP.

This draft should be transmitted to the Sustainability Council by the end of the calendar year for its evaluation, and with the aim of Chancellor approval of the final 2015 iCAP by April. While the 2010 iCAP is in some sense an aspirational document, my hope is that the 2015 iCAP will be more of a roadmap to guide our efforts for the next several years.

As you are no doubt aware, our campus is placing a renewed emphasis on the topic of sustainability, following the results of the Visioning Future Excellence process and the creation of *iSEE*. In 2008, our campus signed on to the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment, and in implementing this new procedure we reaffirm our commitment to become carbon neutral as soon as possible while also serving as a model of sustainability for all universities in the nation. Thank you in advance for helping to bring this vision to reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Evan H. DeLucia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and "D".

Evan H. DeLucia
G. William Arends Professor of Integrative Biology
Director, Institute for Sustainability, Energy & Environment